

Carp Kites

Objective: This lesson teaches visitors about Children's Day, a national holiday in Japan. After learning about how this holiday is celebrated, children will create their own carp kites.

Materials: Streamers, glue/tape, paper (with fish template), string, scissors/hole punch, markers/crayons.

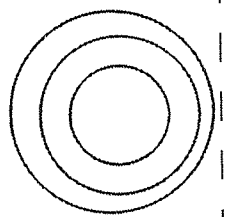
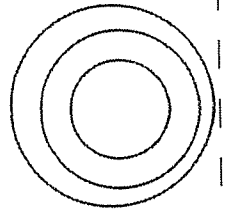
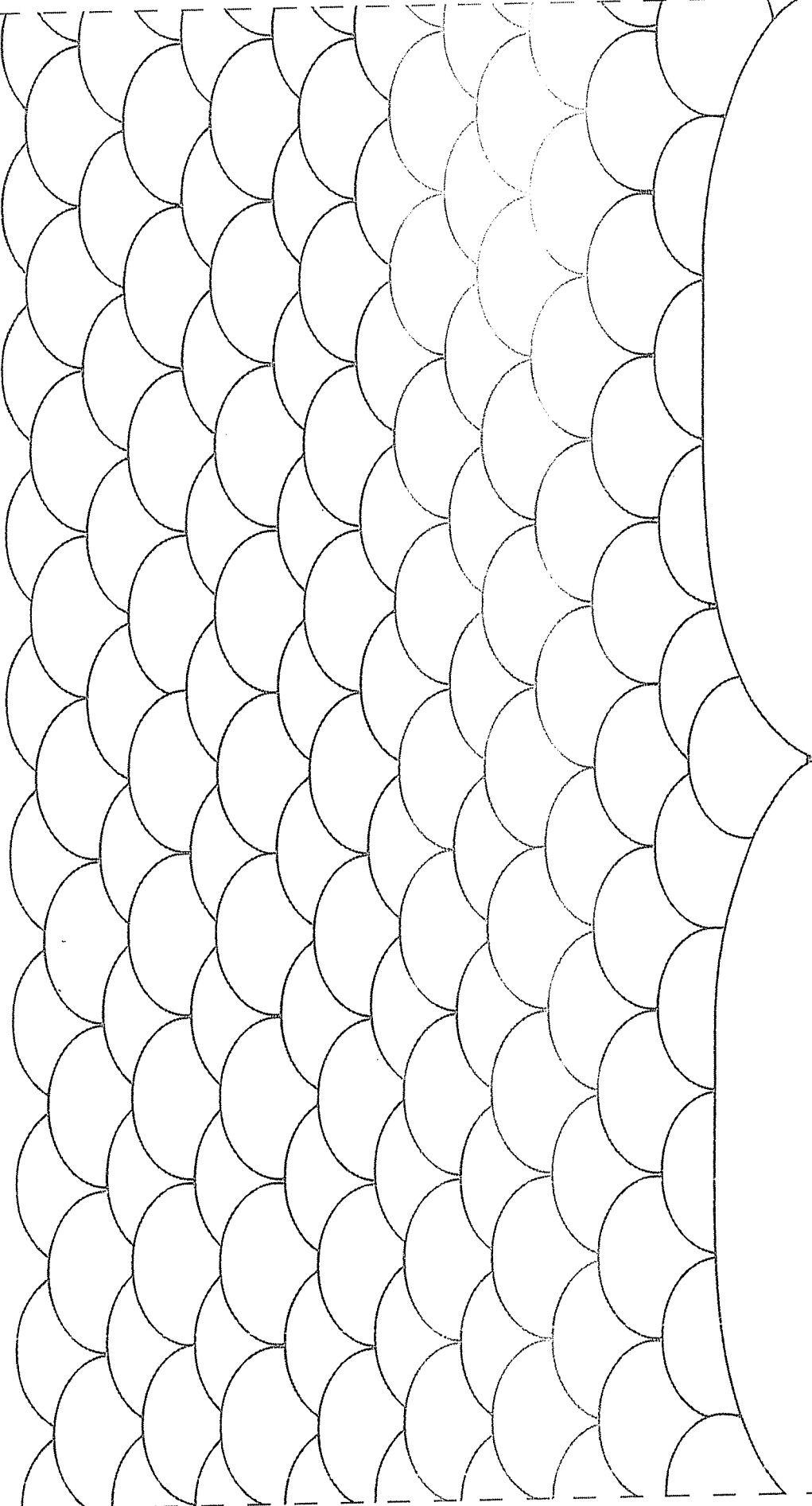
Setup: Set out materials in advance. Have fish templates cut in advance (if short on time). Provide examples of Japanese carp kites.

Presentation/Procedure:

1. Show children examples of real carp kites. Explain to them that children in Japan fly carp kites outside their homes to celebrate Children's Day. Hand out the precut fish shapes and have children decorate their fish with markers and crayons.
2. Once decorated, wrap each fish around and secure them with glue or tape. Children can tape or glue colorful streamers to the tail of the fish.
3. When finished have children punch two holes at the front of the fish. Tie a string through the hole (you can also attach the string to a balloon stick).

For Younger Visitors: Younger children will need help putting their kites together but can easily work on decorating their fish on their own.

Background Information: The fifth day of the fifth month is a public holiday in Japan called Children's Day. Traditionally, this day was called Boy's Day but recently it has changed to include both boys and girls. The carp kites which are flown for this holiday symbolize success due to the carp's long life and golden color. They are believed to represent strength and determination in spirit in the same way the carp travels against the current. In many homes, a carp is flown for each family member. In other, kites are only flown for the males in the household.



Ancient Greek Plates

Objective: This lesson teaches visitors about Greek mythology and gives children a brief history about Greek pottery. This helps younger children learn about patterns, what they are and how to make one. It also encourages creativity & enhances fine motor skills.

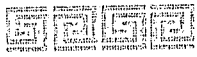
Materials: Painted orange plates, fine tip black markers & white, orange, black & brown colored pencils, information sheets, pattern and plate examples, pencils (with erasers).

Setup: Have plates painted in advance. Set out the markers and pencils in cups around the table.

Presentation/Procedure:

1. Show children examples of Greek Plates. Explain to them that Greeks would place one or two lines of pattern around the plate before decorating the inside with an image. They also would paint animals and Greek gods in the center of each plate. Recommend they do the same. Encourage children to make up their own gods too!
2. While visitors decorate their plates with markers and pencils, inform them about the history of Greek Pottery.
3. When finished have children show you how their plates are similar or different to an Ancient Greek Plate.

For Younger Visitors: This project works well with all visitors. Have younger children focused more on the idea of pattern; they won't need to know as much about the history of Greek pottery. However, feel free to let their parent know about it.

Background Information: Greek pottery could be decorated without any paint! Clay was used instead. When the pottery was baked in a kiln, the areas painted with clay turned black and the unpainted sections turned a brownish-orange color. Ancient Greek pottery often included patterns, especially those, which featured the Greek Key:  Plates would have 2-3 lines of pattern around the outer edge and then an image in the center. These pictures often told a story. Greek designs were more than just decoration; they help us understand what life might have been like 2,000 years ago.

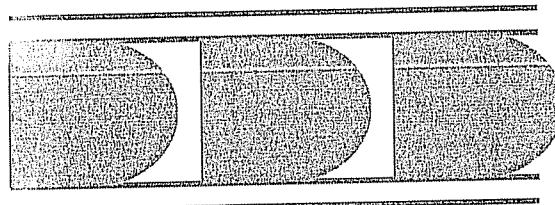
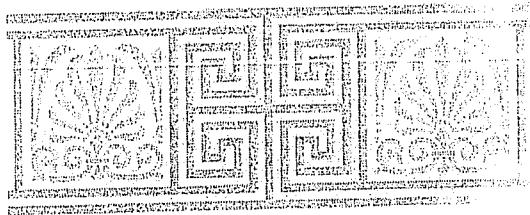
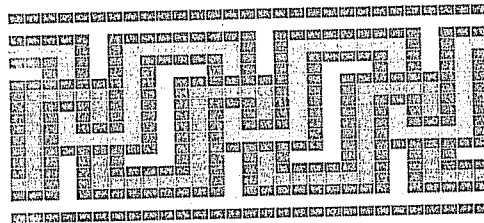
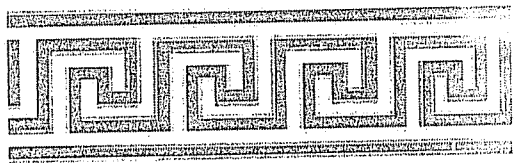
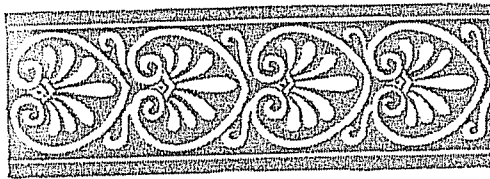
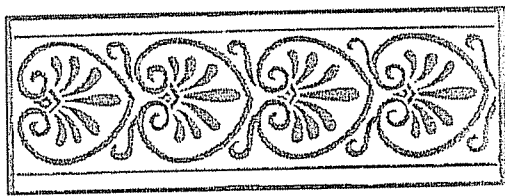
The clay around Athens contained Iron Oxide, which when fired, gives off a reddish-orange color. This makes the pottery stand out from works done in other regions at that time, which look more white or cream. There are many different styles and periods from Ancient Greece, which progress the designs of their pottery.

ANCIENT GREEK PATTERNS

The most well known Greek pattern is called (not surprisingly) the Greek Key. Example:



This is found on pottery and architecture not just from ancient Greece, but also as a decoration for many items from the 21st century. Below are some examples of the many patterns Greeks used. Some of them are variations of the Greek Key. You can use these for inspiration when decorating your plate!



Egyptian Cartouche

Objective: This lesson teaches visitors about hieroglyphs and life in ancient Egypt. Children will use the hieroglyphs to write their name in a cartouche, just like Egyptians did thousands of years ago.

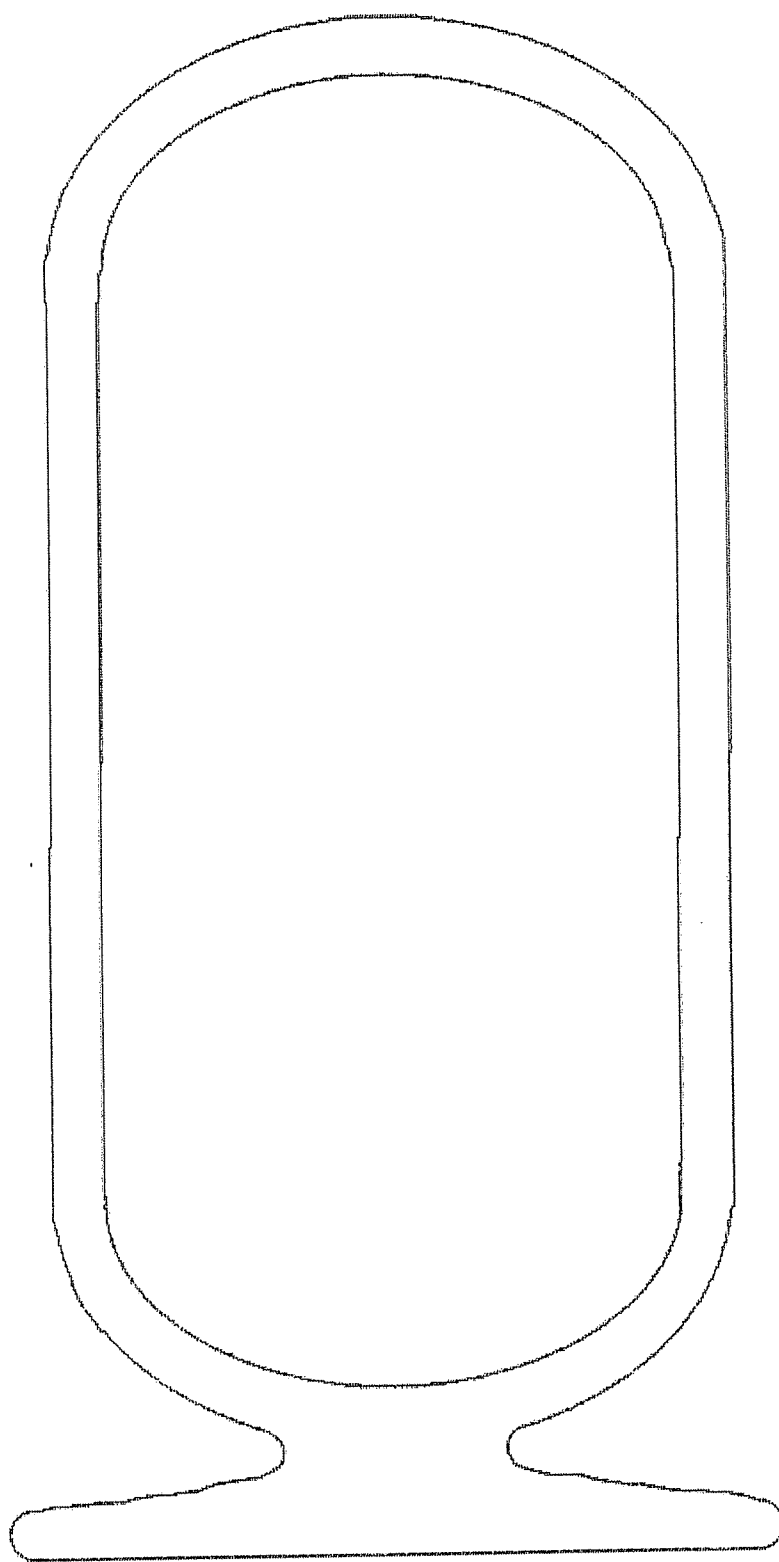
Materials: Egyptian cartouche template, markers, hieroglyphic stamps, string, hole punch, scissors, gold paint (not required).

Setup: Print out the cartouche shapes and have them already cut. Set up stamps, markers and paint. Have string cut and ready to be turned into necklaces.

Presentation/Procedure:

1. Show children examples of an Egyptian cartouche. Explain that famous rulers encircled their names with a design called a cartouche. Tell visitors that Egyptians also had a unique alphabet with pictures for letters.
2. Invite children to use the stamps to write their name in hieroglyphs on the cartouche. If they'd prefer they can draw their own hieroglyphs, some may want to invent their own alphabet too!
3. Children can use the markers or paint to decorate their cartouche. When finished punch a hole in the top and add string to create a necklace.

Background Information: Hieroglyphics, an ancient Egyptian system of writing, began thousands of years ago. The Egyptians used symbols to represent letters of the alphabet. A cartouche is an oblong or oval tablet decorated with hieroglyphics (that have been carved or drawn on) Cartouches were used made only for royalty or ruling officials. It symbolized everything that the sun encircled and is thus an indication of the king's rule of the cosmos.



Egyptian Cartouche Template

Mexican Tin Art

Objective: This lesson teaches visitors about Mexican tin art. After learning about this unique art form, children will get the chance to create their own piece of tin art.

Materials: Mylar, tinfoil, or tooling foil, brightly colored permanent markers, nails or pointed skewer, cardboard or cardstock.

Setup: Set out materials in advance. Wrap foil around precut squares of cardboard. Provide examples of Mexican tin art.

Presentation/Procedure:

1. Show children examples of real tin art from Mexico. Have children draw a picture in the tin foil using a nail (they can press lightly with a pencil first before using the nails).
Encourage children to use the stories and illustrations you've shown them for inspiration.
2. Once the picture is drawn they can color in with permanent markers.
3. For added detail, visitors can use the nails to create dots and crosshatching.

Background Information: In Mexico, tin art, known as Hojalata, is used by many Mexican artists to form both useful and ornamental objects. On holidays, such as Day of the Dead and Christmas, the tin art is displayed around the home as a decoration. The Mexican folk artists found painted tin to be a versatile means for creating fun and colorful items. Their skills in tin punching and etching enable them to create detailed works of art.

Monet's Water Lilies

Objective: This lesson teaches visitors about the artist Claude Monet. After examining Monet's artwork and talking about his style of painting, children are invited to create their own painting inspired by Monet.

Materials: Paper plates, tissue paper, glue, paint or chalk, scissors, construction paper.

Setup: Mix glue and water in small throw-away cups. Set out materials on tables.

Presentation/Procedure:

1. Show children examples of Monet's artwork and read about his life as a painter. Ask questions about the images to encourage children's participation. Invite children to recreate their own version of Monet's famous Water Lily paintings.
2. Pass out construction paper and invite children to cover the entire paper with paint or chalk. This will be the backdrop for their artwork.
3. Hand out paper plates and scissors. This will be the lily pad. Children can shape their pad anyway they'd like. When finished they can tear tissue paper to "paint" onto their lily pad with glue. When the entire lily pad is cover they can add flower or even little bugs (made from tissue paper).
4. When the construction paper is dry, have children glue their lily pad plates onto the paper.

Background Information: Claude Monet was a French painter known for his impressionist style. He loved the water lilies on his pond so much he made over 250 paintings of them. Monet hired a gardener to clean his water lilies every morning so that they would be clean when he painted them. Toward the end of his life, Monet had trouble seeing. Many of his water lily paintings reflect his poor eyesight, as he painted the pond as he remembered it.

Aboriginal Art

Objective: This lesson teaches visitors about the artist Claude Monet. After examining Monet's artwork and talking about his style of painting, children are invited to create their own painting inspired by Monet.

Materials: Construction paper or worn grocery bags, q-tips, paint, markers.

Setup: Set out the materials needed. Put paint in pallets or egg cartons, with q-tips for the brushes.

Presentation/Procedure:

1. Show children examples of Aboriginal dot art. Ask questions about the images to encourage children's participation. Invite children to create their own dot art, inspired by the artwork they've been shown.
2. Pass out construction paper (feel free to crumple before giving to them) and have children create a picture using tiny dots.
3. The aboriginals used art to tell a story and often showed pictures of animals or landscapes, encourage children to do the same. Provide markers for areas where dots are not needed.
4. When visitors are done have them talk about what they've created and how it's similar to the aboriginal art they've been shown.

Background Information: The Aboriginals have lived in Australia for thousands of years and their artwork is one of the oldest continuing traditions in the world. They used dot paintings as a way of telling a story and recording ritual practices. They passed on stories verbally as well as through music and art. They would use the pictures as a guide as they told the story. Aboriginals used natural materials for paint and would often use bark or caves for their canvas. These paintings usually included animals, landscapes and scenes from nature.